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HR 5507, a Prize Defector, Now the Boomerang

By David Wise
Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON.

It was noon on a hot summer day, the 19th of August, 1963, and the Senate was droning through the usual routine business at the start of its daily session. Almost nobody listened as Sen. Olin D. Johnston, D., S. C., placed in the record a long list of "private bills" dealing with immigration cases.

One was HR 5507, "an act for the relief of Michal Goleniewski." But this bill was of more than casual interest. It had been quietly slipped through the machinery of Congress at the specific request of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Its purpose was to allow Michal Goleniewski to become a United States citizen.

For Mr. Goleniewski—that was the name he was given to protect his identity—was a prize defector from the Polish secret service. He had provided valuable information to U. S. intelligence agencies, and now he was to be given a new life in this country.

One of the valuable tips provided by the Polish defector led to the discovery that at least 15 employees of the American Embassy in Warsaw had compromised themselves with women who were under the control of the Polish intelligence service.

Five of these officials were employees of the State Department. Of these, one or two were middle-echelon employees and the others were clerical. All five were brought home and separated from the State Department. Ten Marines, the entire complement of the Warsaw Embassy, were hauled back to the U. S. for the same reason.

The five State Department employees were apparently dismissed because they had allowed themselves to become entangled with Polish Mata Haris, thus making them vulnerable to blackmail. But they were not prosecuted, presumably because there was no solid evidence that they had actually passed on any classified information to the Polish femmes fatales.

On Jan. 12, 1961, Mr. Goleniewski was brought to the U. S. under the care and protection of the CIA. Unlike such celebrated defectors as the Russian Yuri I. Nosenko, he was not "surfaced." His presence here was not publicized. Nor was the sex-and-spy situation in the Warsaw Embassy publicly revealed.

CHARGES ALL AROUND

Last week, the CIA and the White House probably wished devoutly that Mr. Goleniewski was anywhere but in this country.

The onetime prize defector, according to published reports, had gone off like a Roman candle, charging that the CIA and other American agencies were infiltrated by the KGB, the Soviet secret service, and that spies were just about everywhere.

The CIA, as usual, had nothing to say about the case, but from other official sources the word was passed to newsmen that Mr. Goleniewski was a genuine defector who had been of considerable assistance to the U. S. In some cases, it was learned, information he provided led to the arrest of Soviet-bloc intelligence agents operating outside of the U. S.

But the things he was saying now—well, they were simply not accurate, the sources said. The full truth in this vague and murky case may never be known, but the alleged charges by Mr. Goleniewski are peculiarly difficult to answer, from the CIA's viewpoint. All intelligence agencies operate on the theory that the opposition service will attempt to penetrate their ranks.

Although elaborate counter-measures are taken, the CIA can never be completely sure that the KGB has not planted an agent here or there. Certainly the Russians try, and from time to time are caught at it. So the government cannot come out and say flatly that Mr. Goleniewski is wrong.

On the other hand, defectors from the Soviet secret police sometimes follow a familiar pattern. There is a period, when they first come over to the West, when they are the focus of great attention with the intelligence community. Sometimes they are surfaced with great fanfare. Sometimes not. But there comes a time when their information grows stale and when they have no more to give.

Then they may become disconsolate, disgruntled and disturbed, and perhaps bid for attention in various ways. Normally defectors are given a new identity. Some write or teach. But all remain under the eye of the CIA, to protect them from KGB assassins.

But that Mr. Goleniewski was of great service in the past is a matter of record, however troublesome he may be proving now. The House report recommending passage of the citizenship bill included a memorandum from Raymond F. Farrell, U. S. Immigration Commissioner, which said:

"The beneficiary, Michal Goleniewski, a native and citizen of Poland, was born Aug. 16, 1922, in Niewswiez. His wife, Irmgard, is a native of Berlin and a citizen of Germany. They are now living in the United States.

HIS SERVICE RECORD

"He enlisted in the Polish Army in 1945 and was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1955. . . . He is now employed as a consultant by the U. S. government. . . . The beneficiary's one prior marriage terminated in divorce in Poland in 1957. He married Irmgard Kampf in 1961. . . . Mr. Goleniewski was a member of the Communist party of Poland from January 1946 until April 1958, when he defected. . . . The Immigration and Naturalization service has been advised that the contributions made by Mr. Goleniewski to the security of the United States are rated by the U. S. government as truly significant.

"He has collaborated with the government in an outstanding manner and under circumstances which have involved grave personal risk. He continues to make major contributions to the national security of the United States. . . ."

That, so far at least, is the story of Mr. Goleniewski. Like all good spy stories, it is cloaked in mystery and the ending is uncertain. . .